

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 IO-13 ISO-00 NRC-07 AID-05 CEA-01 CIAE-00
COME-00 EPG-02 DODE-00 EB-07 FEAE-00 FPC-01 H-02
INR-07 INT-05 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 OMB-01 PM-04
USIA-15 OES-07 SP-02 SS-15 STR-04 TRSE-00 ACDA-10
PRS-01 PA-02 /132 W
-----031849Z 113347 /47

R 031718Z MAY 77
FM AMEMBASSY BONN
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7935
INFO AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS
AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN
AMEMBASSY DUBLIN
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE
AMEMBASSY ROME
AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG
USMISSION OECD PARIS
USMISSION IAEA VIENNA
USMISSION EC BRUSSELS
ERDA WASHDC
ERDA GERMANTOWN

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DEPT. PASS NRC

E.O. 11652 N/A
TAGS: ENRG, TECH, GW
SUBJECT: GERMAN GOVERNMENT NUCLEAR POLICIES

REF: A. BONN 19265; B. BONN 7341

1. SUMMARY. FOLLOWING THE PUBLICATION OF THE NEW
FEDERAL ENERGY PROGRAM FOR 1977-80 WHICH CONTINUES
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TO GIVE HIGH PRIORITY TO THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE
FAST BREEDER TECHNOLOGY MEMBERS OF PARLIAMENT OF
THE GOVERNMENT SPD-PARTY VOICED STRONG CONCERN
AGAINST THE PROPOSED PROGRAM. THESE MP'S ASKED
THE LEADER OF THE PARLIAMENTARY PARTY TO INCLUDE
MOTIONS TO ALTER CERTAIN PARTS OF THE PROGRAM IN
THE NEXT AGENDA OF THE PARLIAMENTARY SPD. END

SUMMARY.

2. IN ITS MAY 2 EDITION THE WEEKLY "DER SPIEGAL" HAD REPORTED THAT THE MP'S WOULD EVEN GO SO FAR AS TO VOTE AGAINST THE WHOLE BUDGET AND HEREBY FORCE THE SCHMIDT GOVERNMENT TO RESIGN. THIS REPORT WAS INSTANTANEOUSLY DENIED BY A SPOKESMAN OF THE GROUP WHICH CONSISTS OF THE TEN SPD-MP'S FROM THE STATE OF SCHLESWIGHOLSTEIN. HE CORRECTED THE "DER SPIEGEL" STORY BY STATING THAT HIS GROUP INTENDED TO INFLUENCE THE GOVERNMENT RATHER THAN OVERTHROW IT. HE CONTINUED AND SAID THAT ON APRIL 18 THE SCHLESWIG-HOLSTEIN PARTY LEADERS HAD DECIDED THAT THEY WOULD STRONGLY SUPPORT ANY MOVE OF THE MP'S TO BLOCK A FEDERAL BUDGET THAT PROMOTES THE FURTHER EXPANSION OF NUCLEAR ENERGY, ESPECIALLY THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE FAST BREEDER TECHNOLOGY. THE SPOKESMAN SAID THAT THE SCHLESWIG-HOLSTEIN PARTY LEADERS AND THE MP'S WOULD CONVENE ONCE MORE ON MAY 18 TO DISCUSS THE SITUATION BEFORE THE FINAL PARLIAMENTARY VOTE ON THE BUDGET. THE POSITION OF THE SCHLESWIG-HOLSTEIN SPD-FACTION IS NOT VERT SURPRISING AS IT HAD DEMANDED A NUCLEAR MORATORIUM IMMEDIATELY AFTER THE INCIDENTS AT THE PROJECTED REACTOR SITE AT BROKDORF AND HAD CALLED FOR A COMPLETE REVISION OF THE FEDERAL ENERGY PROGRAM IN RESPONSE TO THE GROWING PUBLIC DISCONTENT WITH THE EXPANSION OF

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NUCLEAR ENERGY. (REF A).

3. THE POSITION OF THE SCHLESWIG-HOLSTEIN MP'S HAD BEEN ENDORSED BY NUMEROUS SPD-POLITICIANS AT THE RECENT PARTY CONFERENCE IN COLOGNE (SEE

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SEPTEL). THEY HAD COMPLAINED THAT THE ENERGY
PROGRAM HAD BEEN ELABORATED AND APPROVED BY
THE CABINET WITHOUT PRIOR DISCUSSION WITHIN
SPD-PANELS. THESE OPPONENTS OF THE GOVERNMENT'S
NUCLEAR POLICY HAD DEMANDED THAT THE GOVERNMENT
OFFICIALLY DECLARE A NUCLEAR MORATORIUM WHICH
DE FACTO ALREADY EXISTS. CHANCELOR SCHMIDT AND
THE MINISTER FOR RESEARCH AND TECHNOLOGY MATTHOEFER
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HAD REJECTED SUCH A DECISION AND POINTED OUT
THAT THE GOVERNMENT POLICY WAS IN ACCORD WITH
THE PARTY GUIDELINES ESTABLISHED IN 1975 AT THE
LATEST PARTY CONVENTION. THEY WOULD NOT FEEL
OBLIGED TO ALTER THE POLICY, UNLESS THE NEXT
GENERAL PARTY CONVENTION - WHICH TAKES PLACE IN
NOVEMBER - WOULD DECIDE ON NEW DIRECTIONS. THIS
OPINION, HOWEVER, WAS ATTACKED BY CRITICS WHO
ARGUED THAT THE NEW ENERGY PROGRAM ANTICIPATED
FUTURE DECISIONS DECISIVELY AND LEFT NO ROOM
FOR FUTURE DISCUSSIONS. (REF.B).

4. MEANWHILE THE FEDERAL MINISTRY FOR RESEARCH AND TECHNOLOGY (BMFT) ELABORATED A COMPARATIVE STUDY BETWEEN THE HTR AND THE LMFBR IN REGARDS OF THE FURTHER DEVELOPMENT AND A FUTURE COMMERCIALIZATION ON THE TWO ADVANCED REACTOR LINES. THIS STUDY, WHICH WILL BE SUBMITTED TO THE PARLIAMENTARY COMMITTEE FOR RESEARCH AND TECHNOLOGY, LISTS ARGUMENTS FOR EACH OF THE REACTOR SYSTEMS. IT INTENTIONALLY DOES NOT CONTAIN ANY EVALUATION OF THE TWO. EMBASSY WILL PREPARE SUMMARY OF THE STUDY AND CABLE VIA SEPTTEL ASAP.

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